UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.154/299
13 November 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH
THE HOST COUNTRY

LETTER DATED 12 NOVEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GREECE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELATIONS WITH THE HOST COUNTRY

I should like to draw your attention to a serious problem provoked by the removal of the signs providing parking space for the diplomatic licence-plated cars of the Greek Mission to the United Nations on the south side of 45th Street and Third Avenue.

Immediately after this problem occurred we contacted the New York City Commission for the United Nations and Consular Corps and twice sent Commissioner Sylva a letter with all relevant information.

When Commissioner Sylva, in her reply, stated that the New York City Commission has provided our Mission with a new parking space on the north side of 46th Street, between Second and First Avenues, we thought that this unfortunate situation had been remedied. Unfortunately we only found out that the above-mentioned two-car parking space is currently shared by four other missions (the call letters of the diplomatic cars of said missions are XF, LC, PR, GN) and therefore it is impossible for our cars to park there.

We also contacted the competent persons at the United States Mission to the United Nations who informed us that the City of New York should provide every foreign mission to the United Nations with two parking spaces and that no mission should be deprived of this right.

Since this right was, in fact, inexplicably denied to us, we hold the view that this behaviour is completely discriminatory. Moreover we are not willing to see our Mission's reputation tarnished by the numerous parking tickets we receive every day as a result of the fact that we no longer have a space in which to rightfully park our cars.

Unfortunately, despite our letters to Commissioner Sylva, the situation has remained unchanged for two months now.

In the light of the above and given the fact that this issue constitutes a case of discrimination against the Greek Mission to the United Nations, we kindly request your assistance so that this problem may be settled in the best and most expedient way, in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Headquarters Agreement.

We would be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country.

(Signed) Christos ZACKARAKIS